

**South Dakota Republican Party  
2004 Platform****Preamble**

The South Dakota Republican Party believes that the fundamental principles of the Republican Party are rooted in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of South Dakota. The Party supports the preservation of our Republic, its ideals and institutions for the good of all Americans and adamantly opposes the erosion of these cherished freedoms.

The South Dakota Republican Party believes the strength of our nation lies with the individual and that each person's dignity, liberty and integrity must be honored. The Party supports our heritage of religious freedom and personal responsibility.

The South Dakota Republican Party believes in equal rights, equal justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, creed, gender, age and ability.

The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes the free enterprise system and the work ethic of our people as the foundation of our economic success and security.

The South Dakota Republican Party believes the 21<sup>st</sup> Century requires continued responsible leadership. Leadership must neither burden nor hinder individual rights and efforts. Leadership must also be mindful of the Republican Platform and the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the United States of America. We believe the most effective and responsible government is government closest to the people.

The South Dakota Republican Party believes the proper role of government is to provide for the people only those critical functions that cannot be performed by individuals or private organizations. The best government is that which governs least.

We believe South Dakota is a great place to live, rear a family, and provide opportunity for everyone. To these ends, and for the people of South Dakota, the Republican Party offers, pledges, and commits itself to the following platform.

**Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy**

1. The South Dakota Republican Party supports a strong and viable economy for agriculture, our number one industry, with a strong emphasis on new technologies, labeling and value-added products that increase the value of our agricultural products.
2. The South Dakota Republican Party supports free, fair and competitive markets, both domestic and foreign, for all agriculture products. We support allowing agricultural producers to use any and all business opportunities available. We believe free, fair and competitive markets are best for both the producer and the consumer.
3. The South Dakota Republican Party supports conservation of our natural resources. We also support the continued development and funding of water resource projects that will enhance our economic viability and assure sufficient water quality and quantity in the best interest of our state.
4. The South Dakota Republican Party supports a clean environment with fair and reasonable standards for maintaining clean air, clean water and a healthy environment through the application of technically sound management practices.

5. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the mining, forestry, energy, and agricultural industries of our state, for their contributions to our economy and supports the responsible multiple use of our public lands.
6. The South Dakota Republican Party supports a responsible increased harvest of the Black Hills Forest to make a healthier, more sustainable resource that reduces losses from destructive forces such as catastrophic fires or insect infestations.
7. The South Dakota Republican Party supports efforts to reduce losses to public and private lands from destructive forces such as catastrophic fires and infestations from insects, weeds and pests, such as prairie dogs, originating from public lands.
8. The South Dakota Republican Party supports responsible waste management, which protects the environment and allows local units of government to make decisions for their communities.
9. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the development of sound recreation projects throughout the state without adversely affecting agriculture, fish, wildlife and other natural resources and with due consideration toward property owners who have property affected by such development.
10. The South Dakota Republican Party strongly supports private property rights.
11. The South Dakota Republican Party supports establishing a national process to identify the origin of meat sold for human consumption.
12. The South Dakota Republican Party supports efforts to reduce the amount of sediment entering the Missouri River mainstem reservoirs and supports the removal of sediment that has, or will, enter the reservoirs. American Indians and others in South Dakota with interest in the Missouri River should be involved in the decision-making process.

#### **Economic Development and Jobs**

13. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the expansion and promotion of business and industries to create new jobs in the state, particularly those that will use South Dakota resources.
14. The South Dakota Republican Party supports public and private efforts to promote, develop, and fund South Dakota tourism.
15. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the continued development of the cooperative relationship between businesses and all levels of education.
16. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the continued use of innovative programs, such as the 2010 Initiative and other successful programs, that promote continued economic growth and diversity for all South Dakotans and ensure that our South Dakota youth have opportunities to remain in the state
17. The South Dakota Republican Party supports fair compensation for all citizens, regardless of race, creed, gender, age or ability, and continued support of the current right to work provision in our state constitution.
18. The South Dakota Republican Party believes government should not have an unfair advantage in competition with private enterprise.
19. The South Dakota Republican Party supports and salutes the men and women of Ellsworth Air Force Base for their efforts in maintaining a strong national defense and encourages the strengthening of the current mission and adding more missions to Ellsworth Air Force Base.
20. The South Dakota Republican Party supports and salutes the men and women of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard and Reserves for their efforts in maintaining a strong national defense and for supporting local projects and missions.
21. The South Dakota Republican Party supports partnerships, and cooperation between telecommunications providers and government to improve affordable access and service to all South Dakota residents. The Party supports the increased use of telecommunications technology by education, business and government. The Party supports efforts to attract higher-paying technology jobs to South Dakota.

22. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the conversion of the Homestake Mine for scientific and research purposes.

### **Health and Human Services**

23. The South Dakota Republican Party affirms its commitment to the physical, mental, social “Tiospaye” (extended family) and spiritual well-being and quality of life for all our citizens.
24. The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes that South Dakota continues to make strides in health care. We support the concept that individual states should develop and control their own health care plans as determined by local needs.
25. The South Dakota Republican Party supports and encourages a working relationship between government, health-related organizations, faith based organizations and individuals to address the quality, access and affordability of health care, including pharmaceuticals, especially in rural areas of South Dakota.
26. The South Dakota Republican Party supports preventive strategies, including abstinence-based education, designed to avert health problems through education where those strategies reinforce values taught in the home.
27. The South Dakota Republican Party affirms its commitment to addressing the needs of our citizens who are physically and/or mentally unable to care for themselves.
28. The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes parents as the primary childcare givers. We support quality, private childcare when this service is necessary.

### **Education and Cultural Affairs**

29. The South Dakota Republican Party supports our state’s commitment to quality education consistent with Republican values. The Party supports public, private and home school educational opportunities for all students in South Dakota. The Party supports a continuing emphasis on educational opportunity so South Dakota students can have the same knowledge and skill levels as the best students in the world. Education should remain among our highest priorities.
30. The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes that good reading skills are key to success in life. The Party supports improvements in reading programs at the lower grade levels as the foundation for all subsequent learning.
31. The South Dakota Republican Party supports parental choice and local control in education in our state.
32. The South Dakota Republican Party affirms its commitment to a quality, safe educational environment conducive to learning, which is free of crime, violence, illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco use.
33. The South Dakota Republican Party supports state aid to education within the financial limits of the state of South Dakota.
34. The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes that the economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will require new skills and continuing education for people. The Party supports a post-secondary technical and university system that will provide a quality education and job skills for all our citizens.
35. The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes that ethnic harmony is an on-going concern in our multi-cultural state. The Party reaffirms its support of efforts to increase awareness of the rich and changing cultural diversity of South Dakota’s citizens.
36. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the teaching of the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Federalist Papers and other important historical documents, as well as the teaching of World, American, South Dakota , and American Indian history, emphasizing the principles and values upon which our nation was founded.

The Party also supports the display of the Ten Commandments in our schools if the display conforms to our state laws.

37. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the state's continuing efforts to supply and use technology in our schools. The Party supports programs that give teachers, administrators and school specialists the special skills and technology they need for improving educational opportunities for their students.
38. The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes the importance and value of the cultural, artistic and historical resources of South Dakota.

### **Governmental Affairs**

39. The South Dakota Republican Party continues to support the people of South Dakota in their long-standing commitment to reject personal or corporate income or estate taxes.
40. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the continued review of federal, state and local taxation to protect the long-term economic viability of all people of South Dakota.
41. The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes that government is primarily funded by the taxes which come from individuals and businesses. The Party encourages government at all levels to operate efficiently, share services wherever possible and limit or reduce government spending when possible.
42. The South Dakota Republican Party supports states' rights and opposes government mandates, especially those which do not provide the funding, or the means of funding, necessary to carry out such mandates.
43. The South Dakota Republican Party supports a balanced state budget with the maintenance of an adequate reserve fund and supports a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.
44. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the construction, repair, maintenance and development of quality transportation infrastructure in a fair and equitable manner throughout the state.
45. The South Dakota Republican Party respects the American flag and supports an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect our flag from acts of desecration.
46. The South Dakota Republican Party honors, respects and supports members and veterans of our armed forces and their families.
47. The South Dakota Republican Party reaffirms that parents being the primary nurturers are responsible for financial support, moral training, and discipline of their children
48. The South Dakota Republican Party encourages the federal government to permanently eliminate the capital gains tax.
49. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the permanent elimination of the marriage penalty in the federal tax code.
50. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the permanent elimination of federal estate taxes.
51. The South Dakota Republican Party supports efforts to provide increased retirement opportunities by allowing individuals to privately invest a portion of their Social Security funds.
52. The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes that voting is the cornerstone of our republic. It is a right and a privilege, which should not be taken for granted, and must be treated with dignity. The South Dakota Republican Party supports efforts to ensure a voting process that guarantees every eligible South Dakotan a valid vote.
53. The South Dakota Republican Party encourages dialogue pertaining to Article VI of the United States Constitution concerning treaties related to South Dakota.
54. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the appointment of Federal judges that reflect the values of the Republican Party.

**Public Safety and Security**

55. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the administration of justice to protect our citizens and their property, to assist the victims of crime, and to punish and rehabilitate offenders and assist in the transition of offenders into society.
56. The South Dakota Republican Party supports public decency standards. We support the right of and encourage local South Dakota communities to implement and enforce such standards.
57. The South Dakota Republican Party supports law enforcement that assures every citizen's right to live in a violence-free and illegal drug-free environment. We applaud, appreciate and promote respect of those involved with public safety in South Dakota.
58. The South Dakota Republican Party supports our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment right to keep and bear arms and opposes any further attempts to restrict private firearms ownership.
59. The South Dakota Republican Party supports the continued development of a strong emergency response system in South Dakota.
60. The South Dakota Republican Party supports efforts of the offices of state and national Homeland Security which are aimed at maintaining a secure state and nation.

**Family and Community Values**

61. The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes the family as the central core of society and the foundation of our state and nation, and supports the family as it nurtures the spiritual growth that fosters generosity of spirit and responsible citizenship.
62. The South Dakota Republican Party recognizes that our country was founded in faith upon the truth that self-government is rooted in religious convictions. The Constitution guards against the establishment of state-sponsored religions and honors the free exercise of religion. The courts must respect this freedom and the original intent of the framers of the constitution.
63. The South Dakota Republican Party encourages parents/guardians, schools and libraries to secure their computers against on-line pornography and predators.
64. The South Dakota Republican Party opposes cultural pollution in music, videos, printed or electronic media which glamorizes illegal drug usage and the exploitation or abuse of adults and children.
65. The South Dakota Republican Party believes that marriage is the union of one man and one woman and must never be redefined to include civil unions of same-sex couples, or groups of individuals. To defend the sanctity of marriage, we support the passage of the Federal Marriage Amendment and appropriate South Dakota statutes.
66. The South Dakota Republican Party reaffirms its long-standing historic support and respect for the sanctity of human life, including the unborn, the elderly, the chronically ill and the terminally ill.
67. The South Dakota Republican Party opposes partial birth abortion and supports the recent congressional ban on partial birth abortion. We support those who provide alternatives to abortion or offer adoption services.
68. The South Dakota Republican Party, consistent with South Dakota law, opposes funding abortions with public resources.